

ORIGINAL

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

D/F
C/M

IN RE: AIR CRASH OFF THE COST OF
NANTUCKET ISLAND, MASSACHUSETTS ON
OCTOBER 31, 1999

ORDER

Case No. 00-MD-1344 (FB) (KAM)

The Court *sua sponte* recuses itself from all remaining claims asserted by decedent families; however, the Court retains jurisdiction over the related case *The Boeing Company v. Egypt Air, et al.*, 02-CV-2540. The remaining claims have been reassigned to Judge Brian M. Cogan for all purposes, including pending motions to be relieved as counsel; within 10 days of entry of this Order, counsel for Egypt Air and the remaining plaintiffs shall make a joint submission to Judge Cogan identifying all plaintiffs whose claims remain unsettled.¹

Because of the Court's familiarity with this action, this Order is not entered without considerable deliberation; however, given the Court's intimate involvement in encouraging settlement of the remaining claims, *see, e.g.*, Docket Entry # 451 (Order requiring plaintiffs' counsel to present settlement options to remaining plaintiffs), and the remaining plaintiffs' vociferous objection to settling their claims, *see, e.g.*, Docket Entry # 452 (remaining plaintiffs' letter expressing refusal to settle), the Court concludes that recusal is necessary to maintain the appearance of impropriety. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 455(a)

¹Counsel for Egypt Air has informed the Court that there are approximately 25 such claims.

(requiring disqualification where a judge's "impartiality might reasonably be questioned"); *Liljeberg v. Health Services Acquisition Corp.*, 486 U.S. 847, 860 (1988) ("The goal of section 455(a) is to avoid even the appearance of partiality." (citation and quotation marks omitted)).

SO ORDERED

/signed/

FREDERIC BLOCK

Senior United States District Judge

Brooklyn, New York
May 16, 2007